

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

SCCT-01 ACDA-05 SY-05 USSS-00 AID-05 IO-10 NIC-01

/085 W

----- 089571

R 081219Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8563

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 03897

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, GB, US, UK, FR, UR

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION AT MARCH 7 QUADRIpartite AMBASSADOR-  
IAL LUNCH

REF: BONN 3866

1. APART FROM THE DISCUSSION OF ACTIVITIES IN BERLIN  
OF THE FRG PROSECUTOR GENERAL AS REPORTED IN PARA. 4 OF  
REFTel, THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS WERE COVERED AT THE  
REGULAR QUADRIpartite AMBASSADORIAL LUNCH HOSTED BY THE  
FRENCH AMBASSADOR ON MARCH 7 (ATTENDED BY FRENCH,  
BRITISH AND AMERICAN AMBASSADORS AND STATE SECRETARY  
GEHLHOFF OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY:

2. AFTER DESCRIBING THE STRAINS FOR NEARLY A WEEK  
UNDER WHICH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAD HAD TO OPERATE  
IN DEALING WITH THE LORENZ KIDNAPPING CASE, GEHLHOFF  
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POINTED OUT THAT OF THE FIVE RELEASED PRISONERS POHLE

WAS THE OBVIOUS LEADER AND QUICKLY ASSUMED THAT ROLE WHEN THE FIVE GOT TOGETHER IN FRANKFURT PRIOR TO DEPARTURE ON THE LUFTHANSA BOEING 707. MOREOVER, POHLE HAD OBVIOUSLY BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THE KIDNAPPERS PRIOR TO LORENZ' ABDUCTION FOR HE KNEW FROM THE START THE SO-CALLED KEY WORD ("SCHLUESSELWORT") WHICH ALBERTZ BROUGHT BACK WITH HIM IN THE MESSAGE FROM THE FIVE WHEN THEY DISEMBARKED IN SOUTH YEMEN, A MESSAGE WHICH LED TO THE RELEASE OF LORENZ. THE KEY WORD, INTERESTINGLY ENOUGH, WAS A LINE FROM AN OLD GERMAN SONG, "O, DU WUNDERSCHOENER TAG", (OH, YOU WONDERFULLY BEAUTIFUL DAY").

3. GEHLHOFF, WHO WAS TRAINED AS A MEDICAL DOCTOR PRIOR TO ENTERING THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE CHANCELLOR'S HEALTH. AGAINST THE ADVICE OF HIS DOCTORS, SCHMIDT HAD INSISTED ON CHAIRING THE MEETINGS, SOMETIMES LASTING THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT, OF THE CRISIS STAFF SET UP IN BONN TO DEAL WITH THE LORENZ KIDNAPPING. MOREOVER, HE HAD RESUMED HIS SCHEDULE OF APPOINTMENTS WITH VISITING POLITICAL LEADERS. APART FROM HIS WEAKENED CONDITION AFTER A BOUT WITH PNEUMONIA AND PLEURISY, THERE WAS ALSO A FEAR THAT HIS OLD THYROID CONDITION MIGHT BE GETTING OUT OF CONTROL AS A RESULT OF HIS OVER-EXERTIONS. BRITISH AMBASSADOR HENDERSON ADDED THAT HE HAD SEEN STATE SECRETARY SCHUELER, OF THE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE, YESTERDAY AND THAT SCHUELER HAD REFLECTED THE GENERAL CONCERN OF THE CHANCELLOR'S ASSOCIATES ABOUT HIS HEALTH. THURSDAY HAD BEEN A VERY BAD DAY DURING WHICH THE CHANCELLOR HAD COLLAPSED FROM WEAKNESS AND HAD HAD TO CANCEL HIS APPOINTMENTS. AGAINST THE ADVICE OF HIS DOCTORS, HE WAS, HOWEVER, CONTINUING TO INSIST ON ATTENDING THE

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/085 W

----- 089576

R 081219Z MAR 75  
FM AMEMBASSY BONN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8564  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
USMISSION USBERLIN  
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 03897

DUBLIN EC SUMMIT EARLY NEXT WEEK.

4. THERE WAS SOME SPECULATION ABOUT THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ABRASSIMOV'S RETURN TO EAST BERLIN TO TAKE OVER THERE FROM YEFREMOV AS SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO THE GDR. AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND NOTED THAT HE HAD HAD LUNCH WITH YEFREMOV LESS THAN TWO WEEKS AGO, AND THAT THE LATTER HAD EITHER BEEN PUTTING ON A VERY GOOD ACT OR WAS NOT YET AT THE TIME AWARE THAT HE WOULD BE REPLACED, SINCE HE HAD BEEN SPEAKING OF LONGER RANGE PLANS FOR PERSONAL ACTIVITIES AS AMBASSADOR. THE CONSENSUS OF THOSE AT THE LUNCHEON WAS THAT, WHILE THERE WAS NO REAL EVIDENCE, ABRASSIMOV'S RETURN MIGHT VERY WELL BE ASSOCIATED WITH A HARDENING OF SOVIET POLICY ON BERLIN. AS PRINCIPAL SOVIET NEGOTIATOR OF THE QUADRIpartite AGREEMENT, ABRASSIMOV MIGHT WELL BE COMING BACK TO SUPERVISE A  
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TOUGHER SOVIET POLICY ON THE FEDERAL PRESENCE ISSUE AND OTHER CONTROVERSIAL ASPECTS OF THE AGREEMENT. IT WAS ALSO POSSIBLE, SEVERAL PRESENT OBSERVED, THAT THE SOVIETS WERE UNHAPPY ABOUT CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THEIR RELATIONS WITH THE GDR, AND MIGHT HAVE FELT THE NEED FOR A NEW, OR AT LEAST RESTORED, FACE AT THEIR EMBASSY ON UNTER DEN LINDEN. GEHLHOFF NOTED THAT, APART FROM THE WHOLE COMPLEX OF PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH THE BERLIN ISSUE, THE FRG HAD NOT DETECTED ANY HARDENING OF SOVIET POSITIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC DURING THE RECENT PAST. ONE POINT OF MUTUAL COMMISERATION AMONG THE THREE AMBASSADORS WAS THAT, GIVEN ABRASSIMOV'S PROPENSITY FOR LONG SPEECHES, THEIR

BILATERAL LUNCHES WITH THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO THE GDR  
TO DISCUSS MATTERS OF QUADRIpartite INTEREST  
WOULD BE EVEN MORE EXTENDED THAN THEY HAD BEEN WITH  
YEFREMOV.  
HILLENBRAND

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## Message Attributes

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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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